



U.S. Immigration
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News Release

FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTS 14 CHINESE ALIENS

ICE “China Doll” investigation leads to 16-count indictment on immigration document fraud

NEW ORLEANS—A federal grand jury indictment against 14 Chinese nationals on conspiracy to obtain illegal immigration documents and other charges was announced today by U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana Jim Letten, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers here.

The 16-count indictment charges the 14 defendants with conspiracy to unlawfully obtain U.S. immigration documents, fraudulently procuring U.S. immigration documents and passport fraud. The indictment, returned by the Grand Jury Oct. 28, was unsealed Feb. 3 by order of a U.S. District Judge. Special agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) so far have apprehended 10 of the defendants charged in the indictment, all Chinese nationals, in a nationwide operation. Four defendants remain at large.

The ICE investigation called “***Operation China Doll***,” targeted Chinese nationals operating in the U.S., Hong Kong and mainland China who engaged in immigration document fraud. The primary targets fraudulently purchased and obtained U.S. permanent resident alien cards (green cards), or naturalization certificates to facilitate their movement between countries to conduct their criminal enterprises.

Those indicted include: Yiu Ming Chung, 54; Li Yun Shang (aka Wendy), 40; Zhang Chen (aka Zheng Chen), 40; Tak Keung Dicky Chu, 27; Bin Lin, 31; Wei Sheng Lin, 71; Wei Xing Lin, 42; Kong Da Ni, 37; Kong Xiang Ni, 35; Zhou Hua Ni, 48; Xia Yun Shang, 37; Jian Hua Wang, 54; San Ding Zeng, 51; and Yong Zheng (aka Zheng Yong), 26.

The ICE New Orleans special agent in charge, with the assistance of nine other ICE offices, executed criminal arrest warrants throughout the continental U.S. After the execution of the warrants, those arrested were transported to the U.S. Marshals Office in the respective criminal districts where they had initial appearances before a judge.

“Individuals like these who are engaged in alien smuggling, money laundering, immigration document fraud and harboring or employing illegal aliens for profit must be removed from our society” said Michael A. Holt, special agent-in-charge of ICE New Orleans Office of Investigations. “Ensuring these individuals are apprehended and detained makes our streets safer. ICE considers operations like China Doll to be a top priority.” Holt oversees ICE Investigations in the five-state area including: Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and Tennessee.

Count one of the indictment charges all 14 with conspiracy to use, possess, obtain and receive U.S. permanent resident alien cards (also referred to as "green cards") and naturalization certificates. Count one also alleges that defendants Yiu Ming Chung and Li Yun Shang served as "brokers" on behalf of numerous Chinese nationals lawfully and unlawfully in the U.S. who were seeking to fraudulently purchase and obtain "green cards" and naturalization certificates. If convicted of conspiracy as charged in count one, each defendant faces a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both, and a three-year term of supervised release.

Count two charges Yiu Ming Chung with fraudulently procuring a U.S. naturalization certificate. If convicted on count two, Chung faces a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both, and a three-year term of supervised release. Count three charges Chung and Wei Sheng Lin with fraudulent procurement of a U.S. naturalization certificate. If convicted on count three, both Chung and Wei Sheng Lin each face a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both, and a three-year term of supervised release.

Counts four through 15 each charge the defendants (except for Wei Sheng Lin and Xia Yun Shang), with fraudulently procuring alien registration receipt cards (green cards). If convicted, each of the defendants charged face a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both, and a three-year term of supervised release. Count 16 of the indictment charges Yiu Ming Chung with fraudulently obtaining a U.S. passport. If convicted, Chung faces a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both, and a three-year term of supervised release.

Based on the warrants issued on the indictment, 10 of the defendants were arrested last week in a nationwide operation by ICE special agents. Zhou Hua Ni was arrested in Springfield, Mass. Zhang Chen was arrested in St. Augustine, Fla. Kong Da Ni was arrested in Orlando, Fla. Xia Yun Shang was arrested in Fresh Meadows, N.Y. Tak Keung Dicky Chu was arrested in San Gabriel, Calif. Defendants Wie Sheng Lin, Jian Hua Wang, and Yiu Ming Chung were arrested in Houston, Texas. Defendants Li Yun Shang and Wei Xing Lin were arrested in Houma, La.; and after a hearing on Feb. 9, both defendants Shang and Lin were ordered detained by a U.S. Magistrate Judge pending trial. Defendants San Ding Zeng, Bin Lin, Kong Xiang Ni and Yong Zheng remain at large.

Prosecution of this case is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter M. Thomson.

U.S. Attorney Jim Letten reminds citizens that an indictment is merely an accusation; each defendant so charged is presumed innocent until proven guilty by competent evidence.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.